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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Snow hampering Clausen Springs Dam repair work. Heavy snowfall this winter is hampering repair work on the Clausen Springs dam in southeast North Dakota. A Barnes County Water Resource District board member said it is important to get the dam's spillway shored up by spring. The spillway eroded during spring flooding in the region in April 2009, prompting the brief evacuation of the 55 residents of Kathryn. National Guard soldiers in helicopters dropped dozens of large sandbags as a temporary fix. A spokesman with Sellin Brothers said the contractor is working on a plan to have the spillway work done by spring, and to complete other work by the summer. Source:

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_365896d8-1e6b-11e0-ac8e-001cc4c002e0.html

Synagogue says threat prompts FBI probe. The FBI is investigating a threatening voice mail left at Fargo, North Dakota's synagogue. A caller from a Florida-based area code left the phone message at Temple Beth El the week of January 3, promising a "special package" and mentioning jihad, according to Fargo police. The president of Temple Beth El said synagogue officials told the Jewish Community Relations Council in Minneapolis about the threat, and the organization informed the FBI's Minneapolis office. She said federal agents are conducting an investigation. She also said she did not recall Temple Beth El getting any similar threats before. Source:

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/304722/group/homepage/>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) Breakfast products recalled over labeling. A Minnesota company has recalled certain breakfast products due to a failure to identify monosodium glutamate as an ingredient on the product labels, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said January 12. The USDA said in a statement that 101,629 pounds of "Breakfast Stackers Sausage, Egg & Cheese" pastries and biscuits were recalled by Lettieri's Foods, Inc. after a routine label inspection. No adverse effects due to consumption have been reported, and the recall has been classified as a Class 3 recall, meaning there is no adverse health consequence to using the product. The breakfast products were distributed to California, Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Washington. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE70B4W420110112>

(Minnesota) State sues Pennsylvania firm over inflated phone bills. A Pennsylvania company is accused of sneaking unauthorized charges of about \$15 a month onto the phone bills of hundreds of Minnesotans — a practice called cramming. The Minnesota attorney general and a U.S. Senator from Minnesota announced January 7 a lawsuit against Cheap2Dial Telephone, LLC, at the same time calling for a national crackdown on crammers who they say prey on unsuspecting telephone customers. They also are working to hold phone companies accountable, because they make money by letting crammers put bogus charges on bills. Complaints about cramming nationwide jumped from 1,761 in 2005 to 6,714 in 2009, according to the Federal Communications Commission. The Senator

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said the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee and the Federal Trade Commission are investigating companies involved in cramming. The attorney general said her office has about six open investigations on crammers, phone companies, and third-party companies that place questionable charges on phone bills. The suit against Cheap2Dial alleged the company placed charges of about \$17 on the phone bills of 2,567 Minnesotans for long-distance calling minutes. Only nine of those customers actually used the service. Source:

http://www.startribune.com/politics/state/113079034.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nDaycUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUoD3aPc:_2yc:a_ncyD_MDCiU

(Minnesota; Wisconsin) 13 letters with white substance sent to Twin Cities businesses. The FBI is investigating 13 threatening letters containing white powder and sent to Twin Cities stores in Minnesota. The letters went to eight Home Depots around the metro Minneapolis and St. Paul area, and five Renewal By Andersen businesses, the FBI said in a statement released late January 7. The substance in 12 letters, analyzed by the Minnesota Department of Health, has been identified as sodium bicarbonate, or baking soda, and is not dangerous, according to the FBI. The last letter would not be analyzed until early the week of January 10. The first letter was received December 31 and the most recent on January 6, according to the FBI. The return addresses are identical on all the letters, with “exactly the same letter that appears to have been photocopied,” the statement said. The Home Depots that got the letters are in Inver Grove Heights, Eagan, Maplewood, Apple Valley, Forest Lake, Hastings, Woodbury, and Hudson, Wisconsin. The Renewal By Andersen locations that got the letters are in Edina, Burnsville, Roseville, Bayport, and Cottage Grove. Source:

http://www.startribune.com/local/113104004.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1OiP:DiiUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7P_QLanchO7DiU

(Montana) One dead in avalanche near Hungry Horse Dam. An avalanche near the Hungry Horse Dam in Montana claimed the life of one man January 8. Flathead County Dispatchers said a group of seven people were snowmobiling near Beta Lake when the avalanche happened around 2 p.m. One man died in the avalanche. The Flathead Sheriff’s Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and the North Valley Search and Rescue Nordic Ski Patrol responded to the scene. There were several other avalanches that day; another group was in danger in the Lost Johnny area but was able to dig themselves out. Source: <http://www.kxjh.com/news/one-dead-in-avalanche-near-hungry-horse-dam/>

NATIONAL

Nothing Significant tot Report

INTERNATIONAL

Disaster declared as Australia flood death toll rises to 10. Three quarters of the Australian state of Queensland has been declared a disaster zone after torrential rain threatened the worst flooding in the state capital in 37 years. Ten people were confirmed dead in flash flooding January 11 which swept through the town of Toowoomba, about 80 miles west of Brisbane, January 10. The wall of water came without warning, overturning cars and swamping homes. More than 24 hours later, 78 people remained missing. The deluge was compared to an “inland tsunami” which came with little or no warning despite weeks of rain. The flood alert spread to the Queensland capital of Brisbane

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January 11 with authorities warning that more than 30 suburbs were at risk of flooding, with water threatening 6,500 homes. Evacuation centers were filling up January 11 as residents heeded advice to seek shelter away from affected suburbs. The wave of water that devastated Toowoomba was moving through the Lockyer Valley where it was set to feed into the Wivenhoe Dam, built after the 1974 floods to prevent a similar disaster. Heavy rains have already filled the dam to capacity and authorities are releasing water at staged intervals to release the pressure. That water is flowing into the already swollen Brisbane River. High tides predicted for January 12 are expected to push the river's water levels even higher before peak January 13. Authorities are warning the flood may exceed levels set in 1974, when the banks of the Brisbane River burst, flooding thousands of homes and killing 14 people. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/01/11/australia.floods/index.html>

Flydubai evacuates passengers over bomb threat. Passengers on board a flydubai flight from Amman to Dubai had to be evacuated before take-off after a passenger made a bomb threat. A flydubai spokesperson confirmed a passenger on flight FZ144 traveling from the Jordanian capital to Dubai January 10 had claimed to be carrying explosives. The airline denied initial reports the passenger, who made the threats, was also a co-pilot working for the company and confirmed that he was not an employee. The passenger was taken away for questioning and the other passengers were also offloaded at Amman while a search of the plane was conducted. No explosives were found and the flight continued to Dubai International Airport. Earlier, a Jordanian security official said the incident was sparked when the passenger, also a Jordanian, had said he wanted to see the captain as the aircraft was about to take off. "When his request was refused, he claimed he had a bomb and threatened to blow the plane up," the official said. "The passenger who made the bomb threat is a co-pilot who works in the United Arab Emirates. He said he was just making a joke. He was arrested, and an investigation is now under way," the security official added. Source:

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/middle-east/flydubai-evacuates-passengers-over-bomb-threat>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

(Florida) Skimming devices found at Orlando ATMs. The Orlando, Florida Police Department is asking for the public's help in finding a man who they say put a skimming device on an ATM. Investigators said December 12, a skimming device was discovered at an ATM machine at the Regions Bank at 5401 S. Kirkman Road. Around the same time a similar skimming device was found at the Dr. Phillips branch of the bank. Police warned skimmers are popping up on ATM's across Orlando. On January 11, the SunTrust on S. Kirkman reported a skimmer on one of their ATMs. SunTrust reported 59 ATM cards were compromised and they believe fraudulent charges were made to 15 of those accounts. "Don't know if it is the same person," said a police official who noted police are trying to determine if all four incidents are connected. Source:

http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/orange_news/011111-skimming-devices-found-at-orlando-atms

Hackers find new way to cheat Wall Street. High-frequency trading networks, which complete stock market transactions in microseconds, are vulnerable to manipulation by hackers who can inject tiny amounts of latency into them. By doing so, they can subtly change the course of trading and pocket profits of millions of dollars in just a few seconds, said a former IBM research fellow and founder of

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cPacket Networks, a Silicon Valley firm that develops chips and technologies for network monitoring and traffic analysis. The former IBM research fellow, an Israeli-born computer scientist and one-time Intel engineering manager, said the root of the problem is the increasing speed of networks; as they get faster and faster, our ability to actually understand events taking place within them is not keeping up. Network monitoring technology can detect perturbations in network traffic happening in milliseconds, but when changes occur in microseconds, they are not visible, he said. Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/216425/hackers_find_new_way_to_cheat_wall_street.html

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

NRC extends time that radioactive waste can be stored at nuclear plants. Three Mile Island in Londonderry Township, Pennsylvania, and other nuclear plants may store radioactive waste on site for up to 60 years after their shutdown, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has decided. The change in the federal “waste confidence decision” published in the Federal Register December 23 doubles the time the waste can be stored on-site in spent fuel pools or in dry concrete storage facilities, a NRC spokesman said. With federal funding cut for the proposed Yucca Mountain underground storage site in Nevada, there is uncertainty in getting a national high-level nuclear waste storage site established, the spokesman said. The NRC also asked its staff to look at whether on-site storage could occur for more than 120 years, instead of the former time frame of 60 years.

Source: http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/01/nrc_finalizes_order_extending.html

(Vermont) State experts prepare for disaster. In a time of crisis, once can never be too prepared, the chief of radiological health for the Vermont Department of Health said. People need to know what to do in case of a disaster. Starting January 11, government officials and employees from the departments of health, agriculture and natural resources, along with personnel from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, will be simulating what would happen if there was a leak of radiation. “This prepares us for any technological or natural disaster,” the official said. “We’ll be looking at all impacts, psychological, social, environmental and economic.” Using the control room simulator for the nuclear plant in Vernon, the instruments will create blueprints for everything associated with an actual disaster. Once the plume is originated by the computers, plant employees will use wind patterns to track which way it would travel, and state hazardous material technicians will be sent out to various sites to collect simulated measurements. Those measurements, the official said, will be used to determine who needs what, which locations need to be evacuated, how to control traffic and what the next steps will be. Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17060926

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(California) East County Wal-Mart reopened after bomb threat. A Wal-Mart store in unincorporated El Cajon, California, was evacuated for about 2 hours January 12 due to a bomb threat, the sheriff’s department said. A man called the store on Camino Canada near Los Coches Road at 5:49 p.m. and in whispering voice said, “There is a bomb in the store,” then hung up, a sheriff’s lieutenant said. Store officials called authorities at 6:04 p.m. The store was searched, but no device was found. The store reopened about 8 p.m. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/jan/12/east-county-wal-mart-evacuated-after-bomb-threat/>

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(Oregon) Bomb scare in Macy's parking garage evacuates area in downtown Salem. The Salem Police Bomb Squad in Salem, Oregon responded to a report of a suspicious device on the first floor of the Macy's department store parking structure January 11. A Salem Police Department lieutenant said officers arrived at the scene at about 4:55 p.m. "Responding officers found a duffel bag with an antenna sticking out of, which had been reported by a store employee." A police lieutenant told Salem-News.com the suspect went to some effort to make the suspected bomb look real. He said the bomb squad did not detonate it or disassemble the device, explaining they have different techniques based on location and other circumstances. Referencing a blast heard in Salem, the lieutenant said the bomb team did something necessary to render the situation safe. "As a safety precaution, Macy's' was evacuated at 5:20 p.m., and the parking structured closed off," he said. "At 6:50 p.m., Center Street NE, between High Street and Church Street NE was closed. By 7:20 p.m., the bomb squad determined the suspicious package was not real and declared the area safe." At 7:25 p.m., employees and customers were being allowed back into Macy's, and Center Street NE was re-opened for normal traffic flow. Source: <http://www.salem-news.com/articles/january112011/macys-bomb.php>

(Massachusetts) Police in Natick play it safe with Coptic church terror threat. As many as 60 police officers from surrounding communities helped protect St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church on Oak Street in Natick, Massachusetts, January 6, blocking off roads and stopping cars after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent a bulletin warning of a terrorism threat. Several extremist Web sites posted threats to Coptic churches worldwide after a suicide bomber killed 23 people in Alexandria, Egypt, at a Coptic New Year's celebration. The threats made references to churches in the United States; St. Mark's was the only one of the three Coptic churches in Massachusetts mentioned by name, Natick's police operations commander said. Police went door-to-door informing neighbors about the roadblocks, but the detours snarled traffic in a wide area around Oak Street. January 6 was Christmas Eve on the Coptic calendar. He said police began blocking roads at noon. Roadblocks were removed by 11:25 p.m. The plan was made in conjunction with the FBI. Source: http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top_stories/x448583256/Police-in-Natick-play-it-safe-with-Coptic-church-terror-threat

(Hawaii) Campbell evacuated in explosives scare. People at two dozen businesses in Campbell Industrial Park in Honolulu, Hawaii, were evacuated or asked to remain in their buildings January 7, as a Navy team was called to examine what appeared to be explosive ordnance discovered at a gas production business. The Navy determined the 17 rusted artillery rounds did not contain explosives. The evacuation was canceled and roadblocks lifted shortly after 12:30 p.m., a fire department spokesman said. The shells were found at Air Liquide America Corp. at 91-163 Hanua St. Authorities were called about 10:30 a.m. A Navy spokeswoman said the 155 mm shells were in a 6-by-6-foot box placed outdoors. The shells were about 2 feet long, she said. "We really don't know where they came from or how they got to the location," she said. She said the Navy was unable to determine the age of the shells because of their condition. Source: http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaii/news/20110108_campbell_evacuated_in_explosives_scare.html

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Android mobile phone trouble has a solution. Google Inc. said it would soon overcome the bug that has hit the company's small number of Android mobile phones because of which text messages are delivered to the wrong people and not the desired one. This glitch emerged last year for the first time. Some of the people facing this problem have reported that sometimes messages are delivered to random people. It has been a year since the problem was reported to the company, and the number of such mishaps increased last summer. Google has been investigating, and said it has finally found the source of the problem. An engineer on the Android security team said some of the cell phones can be fixed remotely, but there are others which require a complete software update and need to be plugged in to computers for this purpose. Source: <http://techweek.org/19131android-mobile-phone-trouble-has-a-solution.html>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Nothing Significant tot Report

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Boeing Army computer system costly, unreliable, lawmakers say. Boeing Co.'s new computer system for battlefield communications within the U.S. Army's combat brigades has demonstrated "high cost, poor reliability and performance," according to federal lawmakers. The Boeing system "has yet to demonstrate desired performance levels in testing, has very large power, space and cooling requirements and is projected to cost \$450,000 each," said a statement by the House and Senate armed services committees. There would be 81 systems per brigade. Combined with the Army's new Joint Tactical Radio, the Network Integration Kit (NIK) costs \$970,000 per vehicle. That "may be unaffordable to procure and deploy" to the Army's 45 active duty brigades, according to the statement accompanying the fiscal 2011 defense authorization bill spelling out policy. "The committees urge the Army to reevaluate its requirements" and the panels said the service instead "could pursue upgrades" to the 88,000 vehicle-tracking systems, bought from Northrop Grumman Corp. Among the issues during combat tests in September, the NIK system "did not provide secure voice communication" and, overall, the Army test unit "expressed little confidence in the NIK performance," said a December 16 Pentagon test report. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-12/boeing-army-battlefield-computer-system-costly-unreliable-lawmakers-say.html>

Ohio ex-NASA worker charged over military exports. The U.S. Department of Justice said a former NASA employee in Ohio has been charged with illegally shipping infrared military technology to South Korea. The 66-year-old of Avon Lake was charged January 10 with one count of exporting defense articles on the U.S. munitions list without getting an export license or written authorization from the federal government. Authorities said he exported infrared focal-plane array detectors and infrared camera engines. They said the man is a former employee at the NASA Glenn Research Center, but noted he is not accused of taking technology from the center. The suspect also is charged with

making a false individual income tax return. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/10/AR2011011006532.html>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Colorado) **Suspicious device investigated by bomb squad at sheriff's office.** The public parking lot at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Colorado was closed the afternoon of January 10 after a suspicious device was found. The Arapahoe County Bomb Squad was investigating after a security guard who does building-to-building inspections noticed a device with wires attached to the fuel pump on a security vehicle around 4 p.m. The security guard drove the vehicle straight to the sheriff's office after she noticed the device. The public lot was evacuated and the sheriff's office asked all people who were inside the building to stay inside. Bomb technicians did not find any hazardous devices and everything was reopened before 7 p.m. Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=174860&catid=346>

(Texas) **CBP inspector arrested for taking bribes.** A former U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspector was arrested after a federal investigation revealed he accepted bribes and allowed drug traffickers to transport narcotics across the border, according to a news release from a U.S. attorney. The 45-year-old man was arrested in Mission, Texas, January 6 after an investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security led to an eight-count indictment by a federal grand jury November 10, officials said. He was charged with two counts of making false statements during a federal investigation in 2009 and six counts of bribery in 2007 and 2008. The former inspector of the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge is accused of providing information to drug traffickers to facilitate the passage of narcotics at the Pharr port of entry, officials said. He will remain in federal custody without bond pending a January 11 hearing before a U.S. magistrate. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Source: <http://www.themonitor.com/news/inspector-46052-mcallen-taking.html>

ENERGY

(California) **Cops nab two suspected copper thieves.** Two men were arrested January 8 on suspicion of theft of copper wire from utility boxes in Livermore, California, the Livermore Police Department said. The two men were apprehended at 5 a.m. near National Drive and Brisa Street after police followed up a report of suspicious people in the area, a police sergeant said. A patrol officer saw the subjects walking and, upon further investigation, discovered a stash of copper wire suspected to be from nearby utility boxes. Area street lights were dark at the time, the sergeant said. Copper theft is a crime trend the FBI said threatens the nation's infrastructure, and which a U.S. Department of Energy report said costs the country \$1 billion per year. The estimated cost of repairs for the weekend theft is between \$5,200 and \$10,400, a spokesman said. Source: <http://livermore.patch.com/articles/cops-nab-two-suspected-copper-thieves>

Winter storms affect railroad deliveries of coal in US southeast. Weekend snowfall topping 10 inches in some parts of the southeastern U.S. January 10 was delaying coal shipments to the region's power plants, as railroads experienced delays from unusually fierce winter storms. Norfolk Southern issued a general advisory to customers warning of 48-hour delays for the region, which includes large coal consumers like Duke Energy, Tennessee Valley Authority and Southern Company. "Customers

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with shipments normally routed through Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, should expect delays of up to 48 hours due to a winter storm impacting much of the Southeast,” the Norfolk, Virginia-based railroad said January 10. Power plants in the southeast are also struggling with below-freezing temperatures, that have delayed unloadings when coal freezes into blocks in rail cars, according to rail officials at both companies. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for much of eastern and central Virginia, part of major export routes from Central Appalachian mines to ports in Norfolk. Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Coal/6737186>

Offshore drilling needs urgent reform, U.S. panel says. Only “urgent reform” of government rules and oil industry practices can prevent future disasters similar to BP Plc’s oil spill, the presidential panel investigating the accident said in its final report. Exploration in U.S. deep waters should be overseen by an independent agency in the Interior Department, with companies paying a fee to cover the overhaul, the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill said in a report released January 11 in Washington, DC. The agency should be led by an official with a fixed term and be shielded from political influence, according to a panel statement. The disaster that began on a rig leased by BP was caused by “systemic” management failures at the London-based company and its main contractors, showing the need for an overhaul of the industry and government rules, according to the panel named by the U.S. President in 2010. The commission’s report is about “restoring the faith of the country in a vital enterprise,” said the commission co-chairman and a former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The panel will “make a lot of noise” to ensure Congress passes the needed reforms, he said. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-01-11/offshore-drilling-needs-urgent-reform-u-s-panel-says.html>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

96 arrested as China cracks down on melamine-tainted milk. Chinese authorities have arrested 96 individuals using Melamine-contaminated milk powder in various products, according to China’s Xinhua News Agency. The arrested individuals were producing dairy-related products using milk powder which contained up to 500 times the allowable trace of Melamine. In 2008, Melamine-contaminated milk killed not less than 6 babies and poisoned about 300,000 babies in China fostering widespread distrust about products from the Asian country. In November 2009, China sentenced to death two men involved in the controversy. According to Xinhua, 2,132 tons of Melamine-tainted milk powder was seized by Chinese authorities in continuing operations against contaminated milk. Thirty-eight of those arrested are due in court as “they were found to have used melamine-tainted milk powder as raw material to produce dairy products or sell such dairy products,” according to a Chinese report cited by Xinhua. It also added that the possible cause of the Melamine contamination were “loopholes in the quality control system of dairy products.” Reuters reported milk from Gansu and Qinghai provinces in China’s northwest has yielded extremely high concentrations of melamine. Xinhua noted 17 out of the 96 arrested have been convicted, with 2 sentenced to life in prison. Source: <http://seerpress.com/96-arrested-as-china-cracks-down-on-melamine-tainted-milk/22065/>

(Florida) Cold eats into Florida’s orange crop. Federal officials are predicting that Florida’s orange crop will be at least 2 percent smaller as a result of the freezing temperatures in the region during December. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is predicting Florida will produce 140 million, 90-pound boxes of oranges — the standard measure in the industry. That is a reduction of 3 million

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boxes, with the biggest hit — 2 million boxes — to the crop of Valencias. “The new estimate reflects fruit size which was smaller than anticipated and some preliminary effects of December’s cold weather,” said the chief executive of the Florida Citrus Mutual, the state’s largest growers organization. The USDA’s estimate for grapefruit remained unchanged at 19.6 million boxes. Much of Florida was again under a freeze warning January 12 into January 13, with temperatures expected to fall below 32 degrees for at least 3 hours. Citrus fruit requires at least 28 degrees for 4 hours to freeze. Source:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20110113/ARTICLE/101131069/2055/NEWS?Title=Cold-eats-into-Florida-s-orange-crop&tc=ar>

(California) String cheese recalled in California. A Los Angeles, California company recalled its string cheese January 10 because it may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Surtex Foods Co. said it has ceased production and distribution of its “La Original” brand Oaxaca string cheese, which is sold in a 17.63-ounce clear package. The product was distributed only in California. No illnesses have been reported. The recall was the result of a routine sampling program by the Food and Drug Administration. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/string-cheese-recalled-in-california/>

(Oregon; California; New Jersey) Complaints bring recall of spoiled ground beef. Customer complaints about discolored hamburger with an off odor prompted a recall of about 226,400 pounds of ground beef, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced January 10. Frozen products from One Great Burger, an Elizabeth, New Jersey-based company, are subject to the Class II, Low Health Risk recall. The beef was distributed to institutions in Oregon, and California. No illnesses have been linked to the spoiled meat. The FSIS investigation of the customer complaints uncovered evidence the establishment repackaged and recoded returned products and sent them out for further distribution to institutional customers, the Food and Drug Administration said in a news release. FSIS said it must consider the products to be adulterated and has acted to remove the products from commerce. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/customer-complaint-brings-recall-of-one-spoiled-burger/>

Sprouts outbreak toll now at 112 in 18 states. The outbreak of *Salmonella* linked to Tiny Greens alfalfa sprouts at Jimmy John’s restaurants may have sickened as many as 112 people in 18 states and Washington, D.C., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported January 6. The previous tally had been 94 sick people in 16 states and Washington, D.C. In its update on the investigation, the CDC said the illnesses were reported from November 1, 2010, through January 4, 2011, and there may still be more to count. More than half the patients live in Illinois, where 59 people have been identified with the outbreak strain. There have also been 22 cases in Missouri, 10 in Indiana, 3 in Pennsylvania and in Wisconsin, 2 in Massachusetts, and single cases in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Because this *Salmonella* serotype is common, the CDC cautions that some of the cases identified may not be related to this outbreak. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/sprouts-outbreak-toll-now-at-112-in-18-states/>

(California) Product recalls: beef jerky. About 3,874 pounds of teriyaki beef jerky products have been recalled by Bach Cuc Beef Jerky, Inc., of South El Monte, California, because they contain an undeclared allergen, wheat, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service

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(FSIS) announced. The products have been distributed nationwide. FSIS and the company have received no reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Source:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/jan/10/product-recalls/>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Colorado) Government offices locked down after threat. Several government buildings went on lockdown January 12 after police said a mental health facility in Longmont, Colorado, received a “threat of violence.” Longmont Police said they took the threat to the Longmont Mental Health Facility in the St. Vrain Complex seriously and locked quite a few offices down as they looked for the person who made the threat. Police arrested a 49-year-old Longmont man a short time later. He is suspected of making the threat. No injuries were reported. The St. Vrain Complex at 529 Coffman Street in Longmont was slated to be shut down for the remainder of January 12. Offices affected include aging services, health and human services, mental health, motor vehicle, and public health. Boulder County officials expected all normal operations to resume January 13. Source:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=175176&provider=top&catid=188>

(Wisconsin) Police investigating threat against Gov. Walker, Wis. senators. The FBI, Wisconsin Capitol Police, and local law enforcement are investigating a threat January 12 against a number of Wisconsin public officials, including the governor, the lieutenant governor, and two state senators. The senate chief clerk sent a memo to all state senate offices informing them of the investigation. He said officials are “taking steps to address the threat.” The incident comes 4 days after a U.S. Representative of Arizona was shot. In the memo, the chief clerk writes that every senator should be vigilant about their safety and the safety of other public officials, and to take any threat seriously. The memo also asks that they monitor the Internet for any mention of senators’ names. The names of the threatened senators have not been released. According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, three sources familiar with the matter said the threat was also made against the governor and lieutenant. The sources also said the threat was made in an Internet posting. Source:

<http://www.wxow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13833608>

Calif. man busted for threat to kill Congressman. A California man has been arrested for making threatening phone calls to a Democratic U.S. Representative over his stance on extending tax cuts. “Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, or George Washington — if any of them had ever met [the Representative], they would all blow his brains out. They’d shoot him in the head,” the suspect said in a late-night call in December to the lawmaker’s Seattle, Washington office, according to an FBI transcript. The suspect stated his real name and address at the start of the calls, officials noted. The suspect — who has a \$3 million trust fund and a history of threatening lawmakers — accused the Representative and other Democrats of wanting to take his money and give it to “losers,” the Christian Science Monitor reported. “I’ll round them up,” he said, according to transcripts. “I’ll kill them. I’ll kill his friends, I’ll kill his family.” FBI agents said the arrest was in the works long before the shootings in Tuscon, Arizona, January 8. The suspect, who told agents he had been drinking when he made the calls, faces one count of threatening a federal official. Source:

<http://www.newser.com/story/109611/calif-man-busted-for-threat-to-kill-congressman.html>

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(Illinois) Danny Davis receives threat in wake of arizona shooting: email warns 'Danny Davis is next.

An U.S. Congressman from Illinois said his office received an e-mail threat January 9. "It was some person who emailed one of my staff persons and said that '[the name of the Representative] is next,' " the legislator said. The Democratic Representative said the U.S. Capitol Police and Chicago, Illinois police have been notified. The legislator said he would typically ignore such a threat, but a shooting in Arizona December 8 that critically injured a U.S. Representative, killed six people and injured 14 others, prompted him to be on alert. "You know some things are cranks, some things are pranks. Some things you simply don't know about, but I think in this climate it pays to be as cautionary as one can be," he said. The Representatives said the e-mailer is someone from Chicago who "operates around and in the community" and has been known to "do this before." Source:

<http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2011/01/davis-claims-email-threat.html>

(Colorado) Springs man charged with threats to kill Obama. Federal prosecutors have charged a man who allegedly walked into the Colorado Springs, Colorado FBI office January 6 and threatened to kill the U.S. President. The man was charged in U.S. district court with one count of making threats against the President. According to an affidavit by a U.S. Secret Service agent, the man told an FBI agent January 6: "I want to stop the voices and I intend to kill the President." The man also told the agent he had been paroled 3 days earlier on a conviction for child pornography, and he was having suicidal thoughts, the affidavit said. The FBI said the man described a plan to hitchhike to his father's home in Pennsylvania, retrieve a gun and continue to Washington D.C., where he would confront Secret Services agents at the White House. "[The man] further stated that if he could not kill (the U.S. President), he hoped that agents of the Secret Service would shoot and kill him," a spokesman wrote. The man was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation and was placed on an involuntary 72-hour hold. If convicted, the man could face up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. Source:

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/charged-110890-obama-kill.html>

(Colorado) Man accused of threatening Sen. Bennet staffers. A Colorado man is accused of threatening to set fire around the office of a U.S. Senator from Colorado and shoot members of his staff, prompting authorities to step up patrols around the Senator's home and office. The man faces a charge of assault on a federal employee. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He is due in federal court January 17. An FBI agent said in an arrest affidavit that the man called the Democratic Senator's office January 6 to complain about his Social Security benefits. At one point, according to the document, the man told one of the Senator's staffers that he is schizophrenic and needs help and that he "may go to terrorism." A spokesman from the U.S. attorney's office said there were no indications the incident was related to the January 8 shooting of several people — including a U.S. Representative — in Arizona. The man was well known to staffers in the Senator's office because he had called several times before to complain about his Social Security benefits, the affidavit said. But during one call January 6, a spokesman quotes the man as telling a staffer: "I'm just going to come down there and shoot you all." The man called again and spoke to another staffer, this time saying: "To get your attention, I will go down there and set fire to the perimeter." Source: http://www.aurorasentinel.com/hp_metro/article_f0733914-1cf0-11e0-84b7-001cc4c03286.html

(South Carolina) Building evacuated at Joint Base Charleston. The main Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Center Atlantic building at Joint Base Charleston Weapons Station in Charleston, South Carolina was evacuated January 7 because of a suspicious package. Employees returned to

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building No. 3147 about 45 minutes after the evacuation. A security team from Joint Base Charleston responded and found the package to be a false alarm, according to a spokesperson from SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic. Source: <http://www.live5news.com/Global/story.asp?S=13803008>

(Arizona) Officials warn of Arizona copycat attacks. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives were told in a bipartisan conference call with their leaders January 9 that authorities are monitoring for potential “copycat” attacks on lawmakers after the rampage January 8 in Tuscon, Arizona. Following the deadly shooting that killed six and critically wounded a U.S. Representative and injured several others, the House Speaker and House Minority Leader urged lawmakers to take precautions. “I have also asked that the Sergeant-at-Arms, U.S. Capitol Police, and FBI to conduct an in-depth security overview for members on Wednesday,” the House Speaker told members on the call, along with a “bipartisan security briefing for district directors” of congressional offices. Republican leaders called off all votes January 9 scheduled for the upcoming week, allowing lawmakers to stay in their districts rather than return to Washington, D.C. Homeland Security agencies, including immigration enforcement, customs and border patrol, and the Transportation Security Administration assisted the FBI in Arizona. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/officials-warn-of-arizona-copycat-attacks-1.2598054>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Adobe will allow deleting Flash cookies from within browsers. Adobe has been working with browser vendors to develop a way of deleting Flash Player local shared objects (LSO), also known as Flash cookies, directly from browsers. Local shared objects are part of the local storage feature that rich Internet applications can use to store various settings or cached items. Security researchers have warned since several years ago that local storage can be abused for user tracking purposes. Flash LSOs, in particular, can be used to re-spawn tracking cookies. For example, a Web site can store a unique identifier in a plain text cookie and a LSO. If the user deletes the cookie through the browser controls and revisits the Web site, the ID can be read from the LSO used to recreate the cookie. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Adobe-Will-Allow-Deleting-Flash-Cookies-from-Within-the-Browsers-178031.shtml>

Critical security update released for Google Chrome. Chrome 8.0.552.334 was released as a security update for the stable channel of Google’s increasingly popular browser and contains fixes for a flurry of vulnerabilities. In total, there were 16 security issues patched, 2 of which were rated with medium risk, 13 with high, and 1 with critical. The critical flaw is a stale pointer in speech handling and its discovery is credited to a regular Chrome security contributor. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Critical-Security-Update-Released-for-Google-Chrome-177946.shtml>

Fake Coca-Cola survey emails lead to phishing page. Security researchers from e-mail security vendor AppRiver warned of a new phishing campaign which produces e-mails offering a reward taking part in a Coca-Cola opinion poll. The fake e-mails began hitting people’s in-boxes January 10, and bear a subject of “Happy New Year.” Their header has been spoofed to appear as if they come from a customer[at]cocacola[dot]us e-mail address. The message contained within is a bit confusing, as it portrays the well known company as a polling organization interested in peoples opinion about current events. Recipients are provided with a link to the poll page and in order to convince people to

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complete it, the e-mails offer \$150 to every participant. Users are taken through a series of redirects before landing on a page reading "Coca-Cola's Customer Satisfaction Survey." This page asks for a wealth of personal information, including full name, address, driver's license number, mother's maiden name, home phone number, date of birth, as well as full credit card details. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fake-Coca-Cola-Survey-Emails-Lead-to-Phishing-Page-177633.shtml>

Free City Cash scam spreads on Facebook. A new survey scam is rapidly propagating on Facebook by promising users free virtual currency for use in Zynga's latest hit game CityVille. "Woohoo! Thanks CityVille I got my 1,000 City Cash! [http\[colon\]//apps\[dot\]facebook\[dot\]com/\[censored\]](http://apps[dot]facebook[dot]com/[censored])" or "CityVille is giving 1,000 City Cash for a limited time only! Grab Yours Now! [http\[colon\]//apps\[dot\]facebook\[dot\]com/\[censored\]](http://apps[dot]facebook[dot]com/[censored])," the messages promoting this scam read. City Cash is one of several in-game currencies which can be used to build special buildings, expand the city's land, and perform other actions. City Cash can be either earned or bought with real money. However, this is nothing more than one of the many rogue application-based survey scams that have plagued Facebook for the past half year. Opening the spammed links takes users to a well-designed page bearing the CityVille logo, but clicking on the button to claim the alleged prize prompts a permissions request dialog from an app called "Giveaway Promo." The application wants access to users' profile information and to post on their walls in order to spam their friends. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Free-City-Cash-Scam-Spreads-on-Facebook-177588.shtml>

Microsoft patches critical Windows drive-by bug. Microsoft patched three vulnerabilities in Windows January 11, one of which can be exploited by attackers who dupe users into visiting a malicious Web site. The company also debuted a new defensive measure to help users ward off ongoing attacks exploiting a known bug in Internet Explorer (IE). One of the updates was classified as "critical" by Microsoft, while the other was marked "important." MS11-002 was the update security researchers and Microsoft recommended users apply first. The update patched two vulnerabilities, one critical, the other important. "Attackers can exploit the critical vulnerability in MS11-002 by getting users to browse to a malicious Web site," said a manager of Qualys' vulnerabilities research labs. The tactic, usually called a "drive-by" attack, relies on enticing users to click a link offered in a baited e-mail. The bug is in the Microsoft Data Access Components, a set of components that lets Windows access databases such as Microsoft's own SQL Server. The flaw is in the MDAC ActiveX control that allows users to access databases from within IE. Only users running IE are at risk from attacks exploiting the critical bug Microsoft disclosed in MS11-002. Microsoft said all client versions of Windows, including XP Service Pack 3, Vista, and Windows 7 were vulnerable. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9204600/Microsoft_patches_critical_Windows_drive_by_bug

Zeus builder service spotted on the underground market. Security researchers have spotted a Zeus binary compilation service on the underground market which helps up-and-coming fraudsters reduce the costs of starting their own operation. Despite rumors of no longer being in active development or being sold by its original author, Zeus remains the most popular crimeware toolkit. It consists of a builder that generates a customized Trojan known as ZBot (Zeus Bot) together with the Web application to use on the command and control (C&C) server. Various versions of the Zeus crimeware toolkit exist on the underground market. Some of the earlier ones can be obtained for free, but they are limited in features and are detected by most antivirus programs. The most up-to-date variant used to cost around \$4,000, but since the toolkit also supports modules that add additional

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functionality, the final price could be up to \$10,000. According to security researchers from RSA, somebody thought of this price problem and is now offering a low-cost Fraud-as-a-Service solution. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/ZeuS-Builder-Services-Spotted-on-the-Underground-Market-177422.shtml>

Obama drafting online identity system, led by Commerce Department. The U.S. President is looking to create an Internet ID system for American Web surfers, and is counting on the Department of Commerce to make it a reality. As CBS News reports, the so-called “trusted identity” project is part of the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace, which the Presidential administration is currently drafting. The White House Cybersecurity Coordinator said the initiative is geared toward creating an “identity ecosystem,” but it remains unclear what that ecosystem will look like, and how it will function. “We are talking about enhancing online security and privacy and reducing and perhaps even eliminating the need to memorize a dozen passwords, through creation and use of more trusted digital identities,” the Commerce Secretary explained. The White House Cybersecurity Coordinator said an online identification system would still allow users to maintain anonymity and protect their privacy when surfing the Web. He stressed there are no plans to put together “a centralized database” of user information. Source: <http://www.switched.com/2011/01/10/obama-drafting-internet-id-all-americans/>

Aging simulation scam hits Facebook users. Facebook scammers are tricking users into taking surveys by promising them an app that can simulate what their appearance would be 20 years from now. According to Facecrooks, the spam messages associated with this latest scam read “Wow, how creepy, LOL i look scary as an old person! - http[colon]//bit[dot]ly/[censored]” and share a page called “AGE yourself! See what you will look like in 20 years!” Clicking on the link takes users to a page which displays the picture of a girl and how she would allegedly look 20 years into the future. The images seem to have been copied from a real aging simulation service available at in20years.com that scammers deemed interesting enough to attract users. A message on the rogue page instructs users to click on the image to begin the simulation process. However, doing this will prompt a permissions dialog from an app called “OMG - How could this happen?” that wants access to post on people’s walls in order to spam their friends. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Aging-Simulation-Scam-Hits-Facebook-Users-177371.shtml>

Security researcher uses Amazon cloud to hack WPA-PSK passwords. A security researcher in Germany is warning Amazon’s cloud service can be used to brute force weak passwords used to protect Wi-Fi security. Short and weak passwords would be vulnerable to a brute force attack, especially at the speeds offered by Amazon’s services, which is capable of testing 400,000 potential passwords every second. The researcher claims to have found the key for a network in his neighborhood using his method and Amazon’s service. The brute force attack took about 20 minutes to get the correct key, but he is making changes to his code which he reckons could bring the time down in such a case to about 6 minutes. He will distribute his software publicly and give demonstrations on using it at the Black Hat conference in Washington, D.C. He is releasing it to convince skeptical network administrators that such attacks will often be successful against protected networks. Source:

http://www.afterdawn.com/news/article.cfm/2011/01/11/security_researcher_uses_amazon_cloud_to_hack_wpa-psk_passwords

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Facebook worm spread via photo album chat lure. A new worm that spreads using a photo album chat message lure began proliferating across Facebook January 8 and 9. The photo lure is used to trick potential users into downloading a malicious file, which appears in the guise of a photo viewing application. Victims are prompted to click a “View Photo” button. Users who fell for the scam became infected by malware, dubbed Palevo-BB by net security firm Sophos. The malware attempts to generate a message to the victim’s Facebook contacts, continuing the infection cycle. Facebook responded by purging the malicious application. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/01/10/facebook_worm_photo_chat_scam/

Serious DOM vulnerabilities found in many well-funded websites. A study performed by security researchers from IBM revealed that around one in seven Web sites belonging to the world’s wealthiest companies is plagued by DOM-based cross-site scripting vulnerabilities or open redirects. The research was performed on a set of 675 Web sites, those of all Fortune 500 companies, plus an additional 175 handpicked ones, belonging to security vendors, reputable IT firms, or social networks. Researchers used a crawler to retrieve 200 random pages from each Web site with complete HTML, JavaScript, and CSS code, and then scanned them in a controlled environment with an internally developed tool called JavaScript Security Analyzer (JSA). Pages downloaded from a number of 92 Web sites were found vulnerable to DOM-based XSS, while open redirects — vulnerabilities that can redirect the visitor’s browser — were found in 11 sites. Source:

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Serious-DOM-Vulnerabilities-Found-in-Many-Well-Funded-Websites-177178.shtml>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Nothing Significant tot Report

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(District of Columbia) Another suspicious package at DC post office. A fire department spokesman said a suspicious package reported at a mail facility in northeast Washington, D.C. January 13 was not a threat. A District of Columbia fire department spokesman said firefighters gave the all-clear during the afternoon of January 13. Authorities in Washington and Maryland are still investigating three packages that ignited last week, one at a mail facility in Washington and two others in Maryland. An official with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said the facility involved in the January 13 suspicious package report is not the same one where a package ignited last week. Source:

<http://wmal.com/Article.asp?id=2077410>

(Utah) Emergency crews respond to white powder scare at SLC business. A haz-mat team and the FBI responded to a report of some white powder that was sent to a Salt Lake City, Utah business January 12. Police said they received a report of a suspicious envelope containing white powder that was opened at a business on 2100 South 4220 West. Emergency dispatch officials said seven adults and two children in the business that sells handbags were told to “shelter in place” or stay inside the business during the investigation. Crews later determined that there was no powder and cleared the scene. Source: <http://www.abc4.com/mostpopular/story/Emergency-crews-respond-to-white-powder-scare-at/pRsl5VIKak6yve2VGXYjAg.csp>

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(Georgia) Ga. business gets suspicious package. Garden City, Georgia police reopened Commerce Court at 2:45 p.m. January 10 after employees at Vantage Freight Systems received a suspicious package. Employees of the Savannah-area freight company also went back to work the afternoon of January 10. Vantage employees received a bubble-wrapped package January 10 with a note attached. Inside the package was a bomb, according to the note. Garden City police were called to the scene at about 1 p.m., evacuated the building, closed off Commerce Court and called in the Savannah-Chatham County Police Department's bomb squad. A police official, who heads up Garden City's criminal investigation division, said the package contained a "volatile substance," and was removed from the scene. The case has been turned over to the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service for investigation. Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-01-10/ga-business-gets-suspicious-package>

(Ohio) Findlay office building evacuated Monday. Suspicious writing on a package delivered to the Social Security Administration Building in Findlay, Ohio, led to an evacuation January 10. Findlay police and firefighters were called to 1720 Melrose Avenue around 3:30 p.m. The Lima Bomb Squad was also called in. However their services would not be needed, as it was soon discovered that all that was contained inside the 4" x 6" box was a pen. Office employees were worried when the box showed up with suspicious writing and no return address. Source: <http://www.wfin.com/localnews201.asp?id=6234&storyno=3>

(District of Columbia; Maryland) Janet Napolitano was apparent target of D.C. package, widening investigation. Authorities investigating two incendiary packages in Maryland have more evidence to examine after a third package ignited January 9 in Washington D.C. The mailing in Washington was similar in design and shape to the packages in Maryland, according to the Baltimore Sun. The District of Columbia package was addressed to the Homeland Security Secretary, said a department official who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The other packages were intended for The Maryland governor and the state's transportation secretary. Although all three parcels aroused alarm because of their fiery characteristics, they did not appear to contain explosive material. The devices in the Maryland packages each contained a small battery and an electric match, CNN said, citing law-enforcement officials. Each of the mailings will now be examined more closely at the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia. Already, investigators were sorting through phone calls, e-mails, and letters to try to identify suspects, the Sun said. One focus was disgruntled people who have made threats against state government, according to the Associated Press. Still, much remained to be determined. The Metropolitan Police Department in the District of Columbia, the Department of Homeland Security, the Postal Inspection Service, and other federal agencies are also involved in the investigation, the New York Times said. Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/0108/Janet-Napolitano-was-apparent-target-of-D.C.-package-widening-investigation>

(District of Columbia) Post union miffed by 'sloppy' evacuation. Postal workers who returned to work in Washington D.C. January 8 said a package that ignited at a government mail facility conjured painful memories of the anthrax attacks that killed two of their colleagues in 2001. The fiery package found January 7, which was addressed to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary, followed two packages that ignited January 7 in Maryland state government mailrooms. It halted government mail until bomb-sniffing dogs could sweep the District of Columbia facility. Mail processing resumed January 8 after a meeting with workers, the local postmaster and the workers' union. The postal workers union president said the package worried many employees. "We want them to feel safe and

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secure and be able to trust management to respond properly if this were to happen again,” the union official said. When the popping and smoking package was discovered, postal service managers failed to follow proper safety procedures, the union official said. The evacuation process was “very sloppy,” she said, because workers in the back of the building had no idea they were supposed to evacuate. Managers should have made an announcement on the public address system, she said. A mail processing clerk at the D.C. facility said co-workers told her management had trouble deciding whether to evacuate the building and wanted to wait for postal inspectors or police to decide. A worker ended up flagging down a police car, and workers said police evacuated the building. Source: <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110109/NEWS03/301099901/1066/NEWS03>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Universal flu shot that vaccinates for life a step closer. Researchers have found that several patients infected with the 2009 H1N1 pandemic flu strain have developed antibodies that are protective against a variety of flu strains. “The result is something like the holy grail for flu-vaccine research,” said the study author at the University of Chicago. The scientists from Emory University School of Medicine and the University of Chicago studied nine patients who were affected by the 2009 strain with differing levels of severity. The team identified white blood cells from the patients that made antibodies against flu virus, and then isolated the antibody genes from individual cells. They used the genes to produce antibodies in cell culture — a total of 86 varieties — and then tested which flu strains they reacted against. Five antibodies isolated by the team could bind all the seasonal H1N1 flu strains from the last decade, the devastating “Spanish flu” strain from 1918, and also a pathogenic H5N1 avian flu strain. Some of the antibodies the team identified stick to the “stalk” region of part of the virus — a protein called haemagglutinin. Because this part of the virus does not change as much as other regions, scientists have proposed to make it the basis of a vaccine that could provide broader protection. Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8250592/Universal-flu-shot-that-vaccinates-for-life-a-step-closer.html>

(California) SoCal health clinic patients possibly exposed to Hepatitis, HIV. A contaminated IV line is being blamed for a patient contracting Hepatitis C at a San Pedro, California, health clinic. Officials are urging patients of the Advanced Pain Treatment and Medical Center who were treated between January 16, 2006 and August 18, 2010 to get tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. An unidentified nurse is believed to have contaminated the IV line that was improperly administered. The nurse, who is no longer administering IVs, is still working at the clinic. A second case, involving a patient contracting Hepatitis B, has also been linked to the clinic. Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-san-pedro-clinic,0,7805885.story>

Extortion scam by Food and Drug Administration impersonators continues. Criminals posing as Food and Drug Administration (FDA) special agents and other law enforcement personnel are running an international extortion scam. The criminals call the victims — who in most cases previously purchased drugs over the Internet or via “telepharmacies” — and identify themselves as FDA special agents or other law enforcement officials. They inform the victims that buying drugs over the Internet or the telephone is illegal, and that law enforcement action will be pursued unless a fine or fee ranging from \$100 to \$250,000 is paid. Victims often also have fraudulent transactions placed against their credit cards. The criminals always request the money be sent by wire transfer to a designated location — usually in the Dominican Republic. If victims refuse to send money, they are often threatened with a

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search of their property, arrest, deportation, physical harm, and/or incarceration. Victims of extortion-related calls have also received telephone solicitations for additional pharmaceutical purchases from other possibly related, illegal entities located overseas. The extortionists use customer lists complete with extensive personal information provided through previous purchase transactions. These include names, addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, purchase histories, and credit card account numbers. Source:

<http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2011/01/extortion-scam-by-food-and-drug-administration-impersonators-continues.html>

Docs urge shots as flu season grabs the South, NYC. Flu season has arrived in the southern United States and New York City, and it is sure to spread to the rest of the country. The good news: There is still plenty of vaccine. but the vaccine's protection takes about 2 weeks to kick in. "Take the opportunity while you've got the chance," advises a doctor of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). January and February typically are the worst flu months, and it can drag into March. This winter, a well-known strain of Type A flu is causing most of the illnesses so far in the United States. This so-called H3N2 branch of the flu family tends to trigger more pneumonia and other complications than other forms of influenza. This year's vaccine offers triple protection, against the swine flu known formally as Type A H1N1 flu, the worrisome H3N2 strain, and the Type B flu that tends to be less severe. The United States produced more than 160 million doses this year, a record amount. The CDC said the flu so far is striking very hard in parts of the South, including Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and also in New York City. Illinois and Oklahoma also are reporting high levels of flu. Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/features/health/20110111_ap_docsurgeshotsasfluseasongrabssthesouthnyc.html

(Massachusetts) Teen arrested after hoax explosive device found at St. Vincent's Children's Treatment Center. A 16-year-old boy was arrested at St. Vincent's Children's Treatment Center in Fall River, Massachusetts, January 7 after a suspected explosive device was found in his room. Police said officers initially responded to the facility about 5 p.m. for an assault and battery complaint. But after police arrived, they learned staff had taken possession of what appeared to be an explosive device. Police secured the scene and evacuated the facility as a precaution. The state police bomb squad responded and deemed the device to be a hoax. The boy was charged with possession of a hoax device, a felony. Source: http://www.heraldnews.com/police_and_fire/x389484457/Teen-arrested-after-hoax-explosive-device-found-at-St-Vincents-Childrens-Treatment-Center

TRANSPORTATION

TSA tip: Suspect planned thermos bomb. Shortly before Christmas, federal officials received a tip that terrorists might be concealing bombs in thermos liners carried aboard planes, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) head said January 13. Addressing an American Bar Association committee in Washington D.C., he said he got a tip December 23 that a 28-year-old Saudi national who is on that country's most-wanted list and was tied to the plot to explode a bomb disguised as toner cartridge on a cargo plane, was behind the plot to make a thermos bomb. "Anyone who has traveled with a thermos since then has been getting more screening," the TSA head said. He also said he expected modification to controversial airport scanners and pat-down procedures this year to

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address privacy concerns. Source: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2011/01/tsa_says_screeners_to_be_modif.html

(Massachusetts) Mass. man who aimed laser at chopper gets 3 years. A man convicted of shining a laser beam into a police helicopter escorting a gas tanker through Boston Harbor has been sentenced to 3 years in federal prison. Prosecutors said the 52-year-old Medford, Massachusetts man is the second person in the nation and first in his state to be convicted of pointing a laser at an aircraft. They said he targeted the state police helicopter at night in December 2007 and flooded the cockpit with green light. Pilots directed local police to the light source. The suspect was sentenced January 10 on charges that included willfully interfering with an aircraft operator with reckless disregard for human life. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/10/AR2011011006917.html>

DOT releases 'Concept Document' for US-Mexican trucking. The Department of Transportation (DOT) January 6 released "an initial concept document" for a new cross-border trucking agreement with Mexico, without setting deadlines. The document is the "starting point" for new negotiations with Mexico over cross-border trucking, the department said in a statement. The brief document gives a bare outline of vetting procedures for Mexican truckers that want to operate in the United States, and inspection and monitoring requirements. A formal proposal will be released "in the coming months," DOT said. The Teamsters union and consumer and safety advocates are opposed to giving Mexican truckers the kind of access to U.S. highways Canadian truck drivers enjoy. "The [Presidential] Administration will continue to work with Congress and other stakeholders to put safety first," DOT said in its statement. Mexico imposed stiff tariffs on nearly 100 U.S. products when the cross-border trucking project was eliminated, claiming the United States violated the North American Free Trade Agreement. Source: <http://www.ioc.com/government-regulation/dot-releases-concept-document-us-mexican-trucking>

(Massachusetts) Three 'suspicious' men removed from Boston flight. Three men were removed from a Boston to Washington, D.C., flight January 10, according to Massachusetts State Police. State police at Logan Airport in Boston were called to Gate C28 where JetBlue Flight 1600 was preparing to depart to Ronald Reagan National Airport in Virginia. The JetBlue flight crew said the men — two 22-year-olds and a 19-year-old — were acting "suspicious" and the pilot had them removed from the flight, state police said. "The description of their behavior as suspicious was somewhat ambiguous, but was supported by an FBI agent who was aboard the airplane," a state police spokesman said in a statement. The men were questioned and rebooked on a later flight, state police said. They did not offer additional details about the incident but said it was not terror-related. Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/raynham/topstories/x471101286/Three-suspicious-men-removed-from-Boston-flight>

NTSB weighs benefits of air bags for small planes. Federal safety officials weighed January 11 whether to recommend that some planes be equipped with air bags and shoulder-lap seatbelts, safety devices that have been saving lives in automobile crashes for decades. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released a study of general aviation planes equipped with air bags that highlights several cases where air bags were critical to the survival of pilots or passengers, or they reduced serious injuries. General aviation aircraft range from single-engine propeller planes

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to multi-engine business jets to helicopters. The category includes all aircraft except scheduled airline service, air taxis, and military aircraft. More than half of the new general aviation planes sold today have both lap-shoulder belts and air bags, the board said. But NTSB officials said that accounts for only about 7,000 planes out of more than 200,000 general aviation planes registered in the United States. The study looked at 138 accidents involving planes equipped with airbags over 3 years ending in July 2009. Investigators described two crashes in particular — in Fullerton, California, and Boyceville, Wisconsin, where air bags were found to have reduced chest and head injuries to pilots and passengers. The board also examined 37,000 accidents between 1983 and 2008. It found 50 percent more injuries in planes with lap-only seatbelts than in planes with lap-shoulder belts. One reason the board is interested in examining the benefits of air bags for general aviation planes is the accident rate for general aviation planes is more than five times greater than small commuter airlines or air taxis, the NTSB chairman said. Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/wireStory?id=12591623>

Airlines ordered to inspect Boeing jets for cracks. Federal regulators are ordering U.S. airlines to inspect some models of Boeing jets for cracks after a large hole blew open in an American Airlines plane in October 2010. The regulation covers 683 U.S. Boeing 757-200s, including 88 operated by Fort Worth, Texas-based American. On October 26, an American jet was forced to make an emergency landing in Miami, Florida after an 18-inch-by-12-inch hole opened near the front of the plane. The plane was flying at 31,000 feet and lost cabin pressure, causing oxygen masks to deploy. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said a similar, 10.75-inch crack was found on a United Airlines jet in September. In December, a small crack was found on another American jet during a maintenance check, according to American and FAA officials. The regulation, effective January 25, states all of the cracks were attributed to metal fatigue. The rule orders airlines to check for cracking of the fuselage before the plane reaches 15,000 flight cycles or within 30 days, whichever occurs later. The inspection must then be repeated every 30 to 300 flight cycles, depending on the method of inspection used. The inspections will cost airlines \$58,055 per inspection cycle, the FAA said. The FAA regulation, known as an airworthiness directive, applies to Boeing models 757-200 and 757-300. Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/0111dnbusfaa.9ee31e5c.html>

(Florida) Scribbled bomb threat forces plane evacuation. Authorities said a plane about to take off from a South Florida airport was returned to the gate after a passenger found a bomb threat scribbled in a magazine. Passengers got off, and the plane was searched as a precaution. According to the Broward County Sheriff's Office, the note said there was a bomb aboard the Spirit Airlines flight that was preparing to take off January 8 from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The sheriff's office said a bomb squad was sweeping the plane as a precaution after authorities received the call around 10 p.m. An airport spokesman said that as of about 90 minutes later, no bomb had been discovered. But he was not sure if the search was complete. The Atlanta, Georgia-bound plane was taxiing when the note was discovered. Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20110109/BREAKINGNEWS/110109007/1006/NEWS01/Scribbled+bomb+threat+forces+plane+evacuation>

(District of Columbia) Capitol South reopened after scare. On January 10, the Capitol South metro rail station in Washington, D.C. was closed for a short time due to a suspicious package outside the station. Trains were passing through the station without picking up or dropping off passengers. Capitol Police were tightly controlling where people could walk outside the station, which is about 2

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blocks from the Capitol building. Riders trying to leave the station were initially redirected to the Federal Center Southwest and Eastern Market stations. Other passengers were later allowed to leave by taking an elevator and exiting about a block from the entrance where the package was found. One person was interviewed by Capitol Police, and the Capitol Police Hazardous Devices Unit was on scene investigating, a spokesperson said. There were several street closures in the surrounding area. The station was reopened around 10 a.m. The suspicious package was cleared and there is no threat, an FBI Washington Field Office spokeswoman said. Source: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2011/01/suspicious_package_closes_capi.html

WATER AND DAMS

EPA issues guidance for enhanced monitoring of hexavalent chromium in drinking water. Several weeks ago, the EPA administrator committed to address hexavalent chromium (also known as chromium-6) in drinking water by issuing guidance to all water systems on how to assess the prevalence of the contaminant. On January 11, the agency is delivering on that promise and has issued guidance recommending how public water systems might enhance monitoring and sampling programs specifically for hexavalent chromium. The recommendations are in response to emerging scientific evidence that chromium-6 could pose health concerns if consumed over long periods of time. The enhanced monitoring guidance provides recommendations on where the systems should collect samples and how often they should be collected, along with analytical methods for laboratory testing. Systems that perform the enhanced monitoring will be able to better inform their consumers about any presence of chromium-6 in their drinking water, evaluate the degree to which other forms of chromium are transformed into chromium-6, and assess the degree to which existing treatment affects the levels of chromium-6 in drinking water. Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/93a75b03149d30b08525781500600f62!OpenDocument>

Facilities across the southeast ordered to stop discharging and comply with Clean Water Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Administrative Orders (AOs) against seven entities in North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and South Carolina during the last quarter of 2010 for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Three entities were cited for alleged stormwater-related violations. Polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. The entities cited and their associated violations include: YDV, Inc., for violations at the Compass Pointe Phases 2, 3 and 11 sites in Leland, North Carolina; Marion Retail Investments, LLC, for violations at its Grandview Station construction site in Marion, North Carolina; and Shelby County Schools, for violations at the Shelby County Administration Building in Arlington, Tennessee. EPA issued AOs requiring violators to conduct a variety of remediation activities, including revising and implementing Construction Pollution Prevention Plans and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans; installing and maintaining Best Management Practices; conducting adequate self-inspections; ceasing sediment discharges; and addressing areas where sediment had been discharged. The City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was cited for unauthorized discharges of sewage from the wastewater collection and transmission system. Licking River Resources, Inc. and Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company were each cited for unauthorized discharges of wastewater associated with surface mining and/or coal processing and preparation plants in West Liberty and Phyllis, Kentucky, respectively. EPA issued an AO for violations

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of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations requirements of the CWA at a dairy operation known as Lee Mayer #1 in Newberry, South Carolina. Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/CD333870F958356F85257817005F3309>

Plans to lower recommended level for fluoride in drinking water announced. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have announced plans to lower the recommended limit for fluoride in water supplies, according to a press release. HHS has proposed the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water can be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA is initiating review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water. According to EPA, these actions will ensure standards and guidelines on fluoride in drinking water continue to provide the maximum protection to the American people to support good dental health, especially in children, the release stated. "One of water fluoridation's biggest advantages is that it benefits all residents of a community — at home, work, school or play," said the HHS Assistant Secretary for Health. Source:

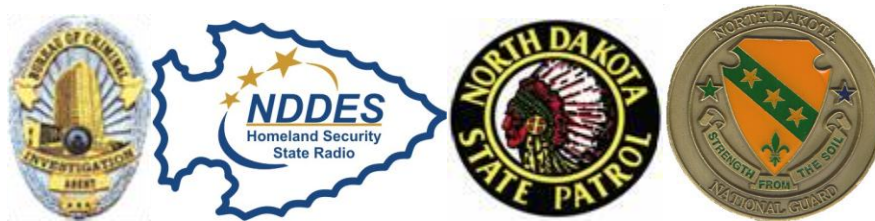
http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=75596

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295 (IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov ; Fax: 701-328-8175
State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455
US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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